
B. Separate records: the aggregator neutral record

CONSER implemented the aggregator-neutral record policy in July 2003. The policy focuses on providing a bibliographic description of the serial as issued by the publisher or other original source of the content (such as a scholarly society). The record representing the online version contains information applicable to all versions being distributed by all providers. The practices for the aggregator-neutral record were intended, as much as possible, to be applicable to all online serials, whether or not they are represented in e-serial packages, and whether or not they have a print counterpart. Certain elements may not be appropriate for some e-serials; for example, notes which refer to a print version would not be applicable to a serial which does not have a print counterpart.

Although the policy calls for the creation of one record for an electronic serial issued in multiple aggregations, there may be exceptions that will require separate records. If the cataloger determines that the serials involved are really different works (e.g. content is significantly different), separate records should be created.

The aggregator-neutral record does not contain information specific to any one particular provider, with the exception of citing the package and format upon which the record was based. Provider names are not added to uniform titles as qualifiers, given as name headings or mentioned in issuing body notes. Notes about access restrictions, format or system requirements specific to particular providers also are not given. As CONSER catalogers consolidate existing multiple records for an online serial, the URL of all versions will be given on the remaining record.

The aggregator-neutral record was developed after surveying CONSER and non-CONSER librarians on the need for an OPAC record representing the online version of a print title. Librarians told of problems with selecting and editing records from the national database to customize for local OPACs. They needed a simpler record, adaptable to local access methods through use of record sets, serials management systems, and databases that provide full text or citations to serial content.

CONSER is applying the policy to titles in e-serial packages that present whole issues of digitized serials rather than to databases that are focused on article delivery. Complete issue e-serial packages provide the best basis for creating a catalog record. The PCC Third Task Group on Journals in Aggregator Databases is experimenting with automated creation of record sets for titles in article based databases. The following table summarizes cataloging decisions made for the aggregator-neutral record and refers to the section of CCM Module 31 where more detailed information and field by field examples can be found. Record consolidation guidelines are presented at the end of the table.

Guidelines for Record Creation and Record Consolidation: Aggregator-Neutral Record

	Creating an original record	CCM
Which provider site is the description based on?	<p>Preferred list:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Publisher's site when it contains the full text * Host or archiving site. Prefer this site over the publisher's site when it contains the first issue and publisher's site does not. * Record for the print. * Aggregations and databases which are article based and do not maintain issue integrity. 	31.3.4
008	Code as for any online serial. Use the beginning date of the print or original format as the beginning date of publication, if cited in the 362 field.	31.2.3
022	Give the ISSN of the electronic in \$a; give the ISSN of the print in \$y	31.19
130/240	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Assign as for any serial, per LCRI 25.5B * If the print format record has a uniform title, use the same qualifier as the basis for the qualifier of the online serial, whether or not the qualifying data relates to the online serial. * Do not use the name of the aggregator as a uniform title qualifier. 	31.5
245	Record the title from the earliest available issue on the preferred source.	31.6.1
246	<p>Make added entries for variants on other provider versions with the wording:</p> <p>246 1 \$i Issues from some providers have title: \$a [Title]</p>	31.7
260 \$a, \$b, \$c	<p>Record the first named place and publisher in the first or earliest available issue online. The place/publisher should be applicable to all online versions and thus, should not reflect a particular digitizer or provider of an aggregation.</p> <p>\$c. When first or last issue is recorded in 362 0, give first/last date of publication as found in that issue.</p>	31.11

362	Record beginning and ending dates per rules and CONSER practice. Do not use a "Coverage as of" note. If the first issue is not in hand, give the beginning date of the print or other original format in a 362 1 note, if available: 362 1 Print began with vol. 3, no. 1 (Jan. 1984).	31.9
440, 490, 8XX	Some aggregator names have been treated as series titles in series authority records. Do not record these as series statements in the aggregator neutral record.	31.13
500 DBO, LIC,	Record source of title proper and latest issue consulted notes as usual. However, also add the file format (if there are multiple formats) and the provider version used for description. See examples in CCM.	31.3.5, 31.9
500/550	Do not note aggregators as the digitizer.	31.4.2
506	Do not use, unless restrictions apply to all versions and formats of the serial. An example is a "classified" government document for which access is always restricted. If specific access restrictions are considered useful in the CONSER record, give in \$z of field 856.	31.14.1
516	In general, do not use this note, particularly for notes such as "Text (electronic journal)."	31.14.3
538	Provide a mode of access note, such as "Mode of access: Internet" or "Mode of access: World Wide Web." Do not give system requirements notes unless the requirements are particularly unusual and would relate to all versions.	31.14.4
710/730	Do not make added entries for the name of aggregator or provider.	31.4

856	Give the applicable URLs for serial packages that present issues of the serial (i.e. those that preserve issue integrity). Do not give URLs for databases that are article-based, unless that database served as the basis of the description. If contents are split among multiple sites, give the appropriate URL for each with the issue coverage data in \$3.	31.15
Record Consolidation and Deleting Duplicates		
<p>If multiple records exist for a title describing it as a part of several aggregator packages, one record should be selected for CONSER authentication and others reported for deletion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Select one record to maintain: prefer a CONSER record if one is available. If there are multiple CONSER records, prefer a record authenticated by NSDP or ISSN Canada (see also CEG C7.3 for additional guidance on record selection)* Add the URL of the aggregation for which you are providing access and/or copy 856 fields from the records you are reporting for deletion and record them on the record you are keeping.* Remove fields that are aggregator specific, e.g. 710/730 or 440 for aggregator names; notes which only apply to one aggregator.* Authenticate the record if it is not a CONSER record; report the other records as duplicates.		